

MIS

Ages to come, that shall your bounty hear,
Will think you *misfrets* of the Indies were;
Though freighter bounds your fortune did confine,
In your large heart was found a wealthy mine. *Waller.*

3. A woman skilled in any thing.
A letter desires all young wives to make themselves *mis-*
treffes of Wingate's Arithmetick. *Addison's Spect.* No. 92.

4. A woman teacher.
Erect publick schools, provided with the best and ablest
masters and *misstresses*. *Swift.*

5. A woman beloved and courted.
They would not suffer the prince to confer with, or very
rarely to see, his *misstress*, whom they pretended he should
forthwith marry. *Clarendon.*

Nice honour still engages to requite
False *misstress* and proud with slight for flight. *Granville.*

6. A term of contemptuous address.
Look you, pale *misstress*,
Do you perceive the ghastness of her eye? *Shakespeare.*

7. A whore; a concubine.
MISTRESS. *n. f.* [*mis* and *trist*.] Diffidence; suspicion; want
of confidence.
He needs not our *misstress*, since he delivers
Our offices, and what we have to do,
To the direction just. *Shakespeare. Macbeth.*
Not then *misstress*, but tender love, enjoins
That I should mind thee oft; and mind thou me! *Milton.*

To MISTRESS. *v. a.* [*mis* and *trist*.] To suspect; to doubt;
to regard with diffidence.
Will any man alledge those mentioned human infirmities,
as reasons why these things should be *misstress*ed or doubted
of. *Hooker, b. ii.*

By a divine instinct, mens minds *misstress*
Enslaving danger; as by proof we see,
The waters swell before a boisterous storm. *Shakespeare.*
Pate her own book *misstress*ed at the fight,
On that side war, on this a single fight. *Cowley.*

The relation of a Spartan youth, that suffered a fox con-
cealed under his robe to tear out his bowels, is *misstress*ed by
men of business. *Brown.*

The generous train complies,
Nor fraud *misstress*es in virtue's fair disguise. *Pope's Odyssey.*

MISTRESSFUL. *adj.* [*misstress* and *full*.] Diffident; doubting.
I hold it cowardice
To rest *misstress*ful, where a noble heart
Hath pawn'd an open hand in sign of love. *Shakespeare.*
Here the *misstress*ful fowl no harm suspects,
So safe are all things which our king protects. *Waller.*

MISTRESSFULNESS. *n. f.* [*from misstress*.] Diffidence;
doubt.
Without him I found a weakness, and a *misstress*fulness of
myself, as one itrayed from his best strength, when at any
time I mist him. *Sidney, b. ii.*

MISTRESSFULLY. *adv.* [*from misstress*.] With suspicion;
with mistrust.

MISTRESSLESS. *adj.* [*from misstress*.] Confident; unsuspect-
ing.
Where he doth in firearm *misstress*less play,
Vail'd with night's robe, they stalk the shore abroad. *Carew's Survey of Cornwall.*

MISTY. *adj.* [*from mist*.]
1. Clouded; overpread with mists.
The morrow fair with purple beams
Dispers'd the shadows of the misty night. *Fairy Queen.*
Loud howling wolves arouse the jades,
That drag the tragick melancholy night;
Who with their drowly, flow, and flagging wings
Clip dead mens graves; and from their misty jaws
Breathe foul contagious darkness in the air. *Shakespeare.*
Parents overprize their children, while they behold them
through the vapours of affection which alter the appearance,
as things seem bigger in misty mornings. *Wotton.*
Now smoaks with flow'rs the misty mountain ground,
And floated fields lie undistinguishing'd round. *Pope.*

2. Obscure; dark; not plain.
To MISUNDERSTAND. *v. a.* [*mis* and *understand*.] To mis-
conceive; to mistake.
The words of Tertullian, as they are by them alledged,
are *misunderstood*. *Hooker, b. ii.*
He failed in distinguishing these two regions, both called
Eden, and he altogether *misunderstood* two of the four rivers.
Raleigh's Hist. of the World.

In vain do men take sanctuary in such *misunderstood* expres-
sions as these; and from a false persuasion that they cannot
reform their lives never go about it. *South.*
This if it be neglected, will make the reader very much
mistake and *misunderstand* his meaning. *Locke.*
Were they only designed to instruct the three succeeding
generations, they are in no danger of being *misunderstood*.
Addison on ancient Medals.

MIT

The example of a good man is the best direction we can
follow in the performance of our duty; the most exact rules
and precepts are subject to be *misunderstood*; some at least
will mistake their meaning. *Rogers's Sermon.*

MISUNDERSTANDING. *n. f.* [*from misunderstood*.]
1. Difference; disagreement.
There is a great *misunderstanding* betwixt the corpulent
philosophers and the chemists. *Boyle.*
Servants mistake, and sometimes occasion *misunderstandings*
among friends. *Swift's Miscel.*

2. Error; misconception.
Sever the construction of the injury from the point of con-
tempt, imputing it to *misunderstanding* or fear. *Bacon.*

MISUSE. *n. f.* [*from misuse*.]
1. Abuse; ill use.
2. Bad treatment.
To MISUSE. *v. a.* [*misuse*, Fr. *mis* and *use*.] To treat or use
improperly; to abuse.
You *misuse* the reverence doth his place,
As a false favourite doth his prince's name.
In deeds dishonest. *Shakespeare. Henry IV.*
It hath been their custom shamefully to *misuse* the fervent
zeal of men to religious arms, by converting the monies that
have been levied for such wars to their own services. *Raleigh.*
Bacchus, that first from out the purple grape
Crush'd the sweet poison of *misuse* wine. *Milton.*
Machiavel makes it appear, that the weakness of Italy,
which was once so strong, was caused by the corrupt prac-
tices of the papacy, in depraving and *misusing* religion. *South's Sermon.*

MISUSE. *n. f.* [*from the verb*.] Bad use; bad treatment.
Upon whose dead corpse there was such *misuse*,
Such beastly, shameless transformation,
By those Wellwomen done, as may not be
Without much shame retold. *Shakespeare. Henry IV.*
How much names taken for things mislead the understand-
ing, the attentive reading of philosophical writers would dis-
cover, and that in words little suspected of any such *misuse*.
Locke.

We have reason to humble ourselves before God by fasting
and prayer, lest he should punish the *misuse* of our mercies,
by stopping the course of them. *Atterbury's Sermon.*

To MISUSE. *v. n.* [*mis* and *use*.] To misuse; to distrust.
Latter times things more unknown shall show;
Why then should witless man so much *misuse* them. *Fa. Q.*

To MISUSE. *v. n.* [*mis* and *use*.] To go wrong.
Every thing begun with reason,
Will come by ready means unto his end;
But things misconceived must needs *misuse* them. *Haberd.*
In this maze still wand'ring and *misusing*,
For heaven decreed to conceal the fame,
To make the miscreant more to feel his shame. *Fairfax.*

MISUSE. *n. f.* A kind of mineral.
Mist contains no cupreous vitriol but only that of iron: it
is a very beautiful mineral, of a fine bright yellow colour,
and of a loose and friable fracture, and much resembles the
golden marcasites. *Hill's Min. Mat.*

MIST. *n. f.* [*mist*, French; *mist*, Dutch; *mist*, Lat.]
1. A small insect found in cheese or corn; a weevil.
Virginity breeds *mist*, much like a cheese, consumes itself
to the very paring, and so dies with feeding its own stomach.
Shakespeare's All's well that ends well.

The polish'd glass, whose small convex
Enlarges to ten millions of degrees,
The *mist* invisible else, of nature's hand
Least animal. *Philips.*

The idea of two is as distinct from the idea of three, as
the magnitude of the whole earth is from that of a *mist*.
Locke.

2. The twentieth part of a grain.
The Seville piece of eight contains thirteen pennyweight
twenty-one grains and fifteen *mists*, of which there are twenty
in the grain, of sterling silver, and is in value forty-three
English pence and eleven hundredths of a penny. *Arbuthnot.*

3. Any thing proverbially small; the third part of a farthing.
Though any man's corn they do bite,
They will not allow him a *mist*. *Tupper's Husb.*
Are you defrauded, when he feeds the poor,
Our *mist* decreases nothing of your store. *Dryden.*
Did I'er my *mist* withhold
From the impotent and old. *Swift's Miscel.*

4. A small particle.
Put blue-bottles into an ant-hill they will be flain'd with
red, because the ants thrust in their stings, and instil into
them a small *mist* of their stinging liquor, which hath the
same effect as oil of vitriol. *Ray on Creation.*

MITELLA. *n. f.* A plant.
The *mitella* hath a perennial root; the cup of the flower
consists of one leaf, and is divided into five parts; the
consists of five leaves, which expand in form of a rose; the
ovary

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ovary becomes a roundish fruit, which terminates in a point,
gaping at the top, in form of a bishop's mitre, and full of
roundish seeds. *Miller.*

MITRIDATE. *n. f.* [*mitridate*, Fr.]
Mithridate is one of the capital medicines of the shops,
consisting of a great number of ingredients, and has its name
from its inventor Mithridates, king of Pontus. *Quincy.*

But you of learning and religion,
And virtue, and such ingredients, have made
A *mitridate*, whose operation
Keeps off, or cures, what can be done or said. *Denne.*

MITRIDATE. *n. f.* [*mitridate*, Latin.]
The flower of the *mitridate* consists of four leaves placed
in form of a cross, out of whose cup rises the pointal, which
afterward becomes a smooth roundish fruit, having common-
ly a leafy border, and slit on the upper side, divided into two
cells by an intermediate partition placed obliquely with re-
spect to the valves, and furnished with smooth roundish seeds;
to which may be added the undivided leaves, which distin-
guish it from cressis. *Miller.*

MITIGANT. *adj.* [*mitigans*, Lat.] Lenient; lenitive.
To MITIGATE. *v. a.* [*mitigo*, Lat. *mitigo*, Fr.]
1. To soften; to make less rigorous.
We could greatly wish, that the rigour of their opinion
were allayed and *mitigated*. *Hooker, b. v.*

2. To alleviate; to make mild; to assuage.
Mithras are milder'd by advice discreet,
And counsel *mitigates* the greatest smart. *Fairy Queen.*
All it can do, to devise how that which must be endured
may be *mitigated*, and the inconveniences thereof counter-
balanced as near as may be, that, when the best things are not
possible, the best may be made of those that are. *Hooker.*

3. To mollify; to make less severe.
I undertook
Before thee: and, not repenting, this obtain
Of thee, that I may *mitigate* their doom,
On me deriv'd. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. x.*

4. To cool; to moderate.
A man has frequent opportunity of *mitigating* the fierce-
ness of a party, of softening the envious, quieting the angry,
and rectifying the prejudiced. *Addison's Spectator.*

MITIGATION. *n. f.* [*mitigatio*, Lat. *mitigatio*, Fr. from *miti-*
gare.] Abatement of any thing penal, harsh, or painful.
The king would not have one penny abated of that granted
to him by parliament, because it might encourage other
countries to pray the like release or *mitigation*. *Bacon.*
They caused divers subjects to be indicted of sundry crimes;
and when the bills were found they committed them, and
suffered them to languish long in prison, to extort from them
great fines and ransoms, which they termed compositions and
mitigations. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

MITRE. *n. f.* [*mitra*, Fr. *mitra*, Latin.]
1. An ornament for the head.
Nor Pantheus, thee, thy *mitre* nor the bands
Of awful Phœbus, sav'd from impious hands. *Dryden.*

2. A kind of episcopal crown.
Bishopricks or burning *mitres* or faggots, have been the
rewards of different persons, according as they pronounced
these consecrated syllables, or not. *Watts.*

MITRE. } *n. f.* [*Among workmen*.] A kind of joining two
MITRE. } boards together. *Miller.*

MITRED. *adj.* [*mitre*, Fr. from *mitre*.] Adorned with a mitre.
Shall the loud herald our success relate,
Or *mitred* priest appoint the solemn day?
Mistaken abbots, among us, were those that were exempt
from the diocesan jurisdiction, as having within their own
precincts episcopal authority, and being lords in parliament
were called abbots foreigen. *Shakespeare's Partogen.*

MITTENT. *adj.* [*mittens*, Lat.] Sending forth; emitting.
The fluxion proceedeth from humours peccant in quantity
or quality, thrust forth by the part *mittens* upon the inferior
weak parts. *Wise's Surgery.*

MITTENS. *n. f.* [*mittains*, French.]
1. Coarse gloves for the Winter.
December must be exprest with a horrid aspect, as also
January clad in Irish rug, holding in furred *mittens* the sign of
Capricorn. *Peacham on Drawing.*

2. Gloves that cover the arm without covering the fingers.
3. To handle one without *mittens*. To use one roughly. A
low phrase. *Ains.*

MITTIMUS. [*Latin*.] A warrant by which a justice commits
an offender to prison.

To MIX. *v. a.* [*mixen*, Dutch; *miscio*, Latin.]
1. To unite different bodies into one mass; to put various in-
gredients together.
Ephraim hath *mixed* himself among the people. *Hof. vii. 8.*
A *mixed* multitude went up with them, and flocks and
herds. *Exod. xii. 38.*
He sent out of his mouth a blast of fire, and out of his
lips a flaming breath, and out of his tongue he cast out
sparks and tempests; and they were all *mixt* together. *2 Ezech.*

2. To form of different faiths.

MOB

I have chosen an argument, *mixt* of religious and civil
considerations; and likewise *mixt* between contemplative and
active. *Bacon's holy War.*

3. To join; to mingle.
Brothers, you *mix* your sadness with some fear;
This is the English not the Turkish court. *Shakespeare.*

MIXEN. *n. f.* [*mixen*, Saxon.] A dunghil; a laystall.

MIXTION. *n. f.* [*mixtion*, Fr. from *mix*.] Mixture; confusion
of one body with another.
Others perceiving this rule to fall short, have pieced it out
by the *mixtion* of vacuity among bodies, believing it is that
which makes one rarer than another. *Digby on Bodies.*

Though we want a proper name, yet are they not to be
lightly past over as elementary or subterraneous *mixtions*.
Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. ii.

MIXTLY. *adv.* [*from mix*.] With coalition of different parts
into one.

MIXTURE. *n. f.* [*mixtura*, Latin.]
1. The act of mixing; the state of being mixed.
O happy *mixture*, wherein things contrary do so qualify
and correct the one the danger of the other's excess, that
neither boldness can make us presume, as well as we are kept
under with the sense of our own wretchedness; nor, while
we trust in the mercy of God through Christ Jesus, fear be
able to tyrannize over us! *Hooker, b. v.*

Those liquors are expelled out of the body which, by their
mixture, convert the aliment into an animal liquid. *Arbuth.*

I, by baleful furies led,
With monstrous *mixture* stain'd my mother's bed. *Pope.*

2. A mass formed by mingled ingredients.
Come vial—What if this *mixture* do not work at all?
Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet.

3. That which is added and mixed.
Neither can God himself be otherwise understood, than as
a mind free and disentangled from all corporeal *mixtures*, per-
ceiving and moving all things. *Stillingfleet.*

Cicero doubts whether it were possible for a community to
exist, that had not a prevailing *mixture* of piety in its con-
stitution. *Addison's Freeholder, No. 29.*

While we live in this world, where good and bad men are
blended together, and where there is also a *mixture* of good
and evil widely distributed by God, to serve the ends of his
providence. *Atterbury's Sermon.*

MIZMAZE. *n. f.* [*A cant word, formed from maze by redu-*
plication.] A maze; a labyrinth.
Those who are accustomed to reason have got the true key
of books, and the clue to lead them through the *mizmaze* of
variety of opinions and authors to truth. *Locke.*

MIZZEN. *n. f.* [*mizzen*, Dutch.]
The *mizzen* is a mast in the stern or back back of a ship:
in some large ships there are two such masts, that standing
next the main mast is called the main *mizzen*, and the other
near the poop the bonaventure *mizzen*: the length of a *miz-*
zen mast is half that of the main mast, or the height of it is
the same with that of the maintop mast from the quarter-
deck, and the length of the *mizzen* topmast is half that. *Bail.*
A commander at sea had his leg fractured by the fall of
his *mizzen* topmast. *Wise's Surgery.*

MIZZY. *n. f.* A bog; a quagmire. *Ains.*

MNEMONICKS. *n. f.* [*mnemonics*.] The art of memory.

MO. *adj.* [*ma*, Saxon; *mae*, Scottish.] Making greater num-
ber; more.
Calliope and muses *mo*,
Soon as your oaken pipe begins to found
Their ivory lutes lay by.
With oxbows and oxyokes, with other things *mo*,
For oxtrem and horsetrem in plough for to go. *Tupper.*

MO. *adv.* Further; longer.
Sing no more ditties, sing no *mo*
Of dumps so dull and heavy;
The frauds of men were ever so,
Since Summer was first leas'd. *Shakespeare.*

To MOAN. *v. a.* [*from mœnan*, Saxon, to grieve.] To la-
ment; to deplore.
The generous hand redressive search'd
Into the horrors of the gloomy jail,
Unpitied and unheard, where misery *moans*. *Thomson.*

MOAN. *n. f.* [*from the verb*.] Lamentation; audible sorrow;
grief expressed in words or cries.
I have disabled mine estate,
By shewing something a more swelling port,
Than my faint means would grant continuance;
Nor do I now make *moan* to be abridg'd
From such a noble rate. *Shakespeare. Merchant of Venice.*
The fresh stream ran by her, and murmur'd her *moans*;
The salt tears fell from her, and soft'ned the stones. *Shak.*
Sullen *moans*,
Hollow groans,
And cries of tortur'd ghosts. *Pope's St. Cecilia.*

MOAT. *n. f.* [*moite*, French; a mound; *mota*, low Latin.] A
canal of water round a house or castle for defence.
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